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Message Text

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53
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY OF STATE RESUMES POST CONVENTION TALKS
AND "MODERATE" UNIONISTS CRITICIZE SDLP

1. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND MET SEPARATELY WITH DELEGATIONS FROM THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) AND THE UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) DEC. 15. PRESS REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS SUGGEST THAT MR. REES WILL PRESENT THE CABINET VIEW OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION REPORT TO PARLIAMENT AROUND JAN. 12. SPOKESMEN FOR BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE TALKS BUT FEW FACTS REVEALED ON SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

2. WILLIAM CRAIG VANGUARD UNIONIST LEADER AND GLENN BARR CHAIRMAN, ULSTER LOYALIST CENTRAL COORDINATING COMVITTEE (ULCCC) AND A SUPPORTER OF CRAIG'S MOUNTED APPARNETLY UNCOORDINATED CRITICISMS OF VARYING HARSHNESS ON SDLP DEC. 15. CRAIG SAID SDLP REFUSAL PUBLICLY TO RECOGNIZE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARLY (RUC) WAS MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO GET IDEA OF VOLUNTARY COALITION ACROSS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW CRAIG SEEMED SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT GLENN BARR OF ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) HAD EARLIER MADE STRONGER ATTACK. BARR SPEAKING ON BEHALF ULCCC WHICH GROUPS
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SEVERAL PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS AND VESTIGES

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ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL HAD SAID "HAND OF FRIENDSHIP HAD BEEN OFFERED TO SDLP BUT THAT NEXT TIME IT WOULD BE IRON FIST". BARR ALSO SAID THAT PARAMILITARIES WOULD SUPPORT LOYALIST POLITICIANS SO LONG AS "POLITICIANS IN THE FRONT LINES." CONGEN BELIEVES TWO FACTORS CONDITIONING BARR ATTITUDE, (A) INITIAL UNEASE IN UDA OVER CRAIG IDEA OF "VOLUNTARY COALITION" AND INABILITY DETERMINE POPULAR ULSTER REACTION TO IDEA HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY SDLP CONFERENCE REFUSALS TO DISAVOW UNITED IRELAND ASPIRATION AND DECLARE SUPPORT FOR RUC, (B) IF CRAIG IDEA DOES NOT GAIN GROUND IN CONVENTION "PHASE TWO" THEN PROPONENTS CAN CLAIM IDEA FAILED BECAUSE OF SDLP INTRANSIGENCE.
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